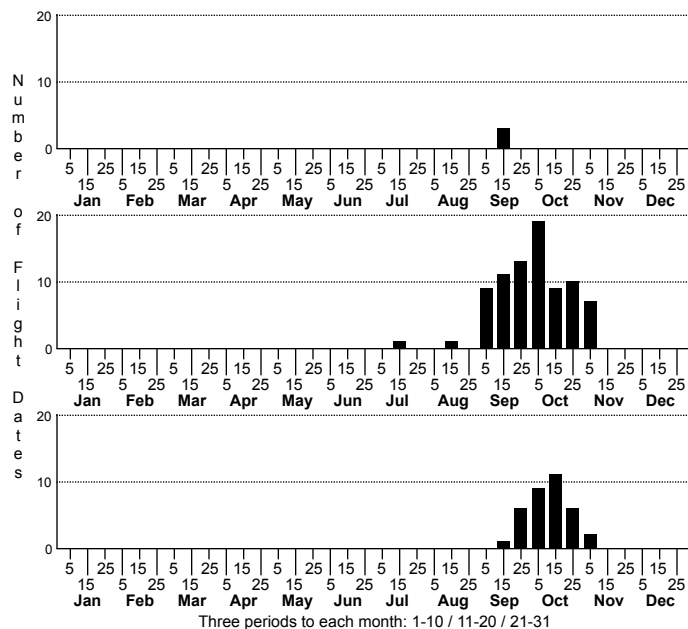


Machimia tentoriferella Gold-striped Leaf-tier Moth



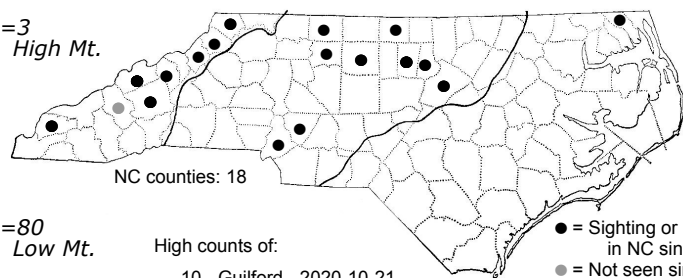
n=3
High Mt.

n=80
Low Mt.

n=35
Pd

High counts of:

10 - Guilford - 2020-10-21
7 - Guilford - 2019-10-11
5 - Madison - 2019-09-18



● = Sighting or Collection in NC since 2005
● = Not seen since 2005

Status Rank
NC US NC Global

n=1
CP

FAMILY: Depressariidae SUBFAMILY: [Amphisbatinae] TRIBE: [Amphisbatini]
TAXONOMIC_COMMENTS:

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984); Beadle and Leckie (2012)

ONLINE PHOTOS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS:

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: Chapman and Lienk, 1971; Marquis et al., 2019

ID COMMENTS: The following description is primarily based on that of Clarke (1941). The labial palp is pale yellowish white, and the second segment is strongly suffused with blackish fuscous exteriorly on the basal half. The third segment is inwardly speckled with blackish fuscous on the basal third. The antenna is ochreous and annulated with fuscous, while the head is pale whitish ochreous. The thorax and forewing are reddish ochreous and sparsely speckled with blackish fuscous. The thorax has a patch of black scales at the posterior tip, and the forewing has three prominent blackish-fuscous spots. Two are at the beginning and end of the cell, and the third is equidistant between these two, closer to the inner margin, and more diffuse. At about two-thirds the wing length, a blackish-fuscous line of scales extends from the costa posteriorly for a short distance. It then sharply angles back towards the inner margin while roughly paralleling the curvature of the termen. A series of small, blackish-fuscous spots extends from near the end of the costa around the termen and onto the inner margin for a short distance. The cilia of the forewing are ochreous. The hindwing is fuscous with a reddish cast and the cilia are ochreous with a fuscous sub-basal band. The legs are ochreous and heavily overlaid with fuscous, except at the joints. The abdomen is ochreous and speckled and suffused with blackish fuscous. This is a distinctive species that is best distinguished by the broadly curved wings with angulated tips, the three prominent blackish-fuscous spots on the forewing, and the black patch of scales near the posterior tip of the thorax. The blackish-fuscous line in the post-median region that angles back towards the inner margin is often faint in worn specimens.

DISTRIBUTION: *Machimia tentoriferella* is found primarily in eastern North America, including much of extreme southern Canada from Manitoba eastward to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. In the eastern US the range extends from Maine southward to northern Georgia and central Alabama, and westward to central Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa and eastern Minnesota. It appears to be absent or rare in the southeastern Coastal Plain. Isolated populations have been found in California, Colorado and Texas that may reflect introductions. In North Carolina, populations are largely restricted to the Blue Ridge and Piedmont. As of 2023 we have only one record from the Coastal Plain.

FLIGHT COMMENT: Local populations appear to be univoltine. Adults have been recorded from April through December in different parts of the range, with a peak from August through October depending on the location. As of 2023, our records are from mid-July to early November, with a seasonal peak in September and October.

HABITAT: Populations are dependent on hardwoods as a food source. They occur in a variety of habitats ranging from wooded residential neighborhoods to hardwood and mixed pine-hardwood forests.

FOOD: The larvae are highly polyphagous and feed on numerous hardwoods (Prentice, 1966; Chapman and Lienk, 1971; Baker, 1972; Clarke, 1941; Robinson et al., 2010; Marquis et al., 2019; Blair, 2023). The known hosts include Red Maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>), Silver Maple (<i>A. saccharinum</i>), Sugar Maple (<i>A. saccharum</i>), Downy Serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>), Yellow Birch (<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>), Paper Birch (<i>B. papyrifera</i>), hickories (<i>Carya</i>), including Pignut Hickory (<i>C. glabra</i>) and Mockernut Hickory (<i>C. tomentosa</i>), American Chestnut (<i>Castanea dentata</i>), Buttonbush (<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>), Flowering Dogwood (Cornus florida), Gray Dogwood (<i>Cornus racemosa</i>), hazelnuts (<i>Corylus</i>), hawthorns (<i>Crataegus</i>), American Beech (<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>), White Ash (<i>Fraxinus americana</i>), Honey Locust (<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>), American Witch-hazel (<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>), Butternut (<i>Juglans cinerea</i>), Common Apple (<i>Malus domestica</i>), Black Gum (<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>), American Hop-hornbeam (Ostrya virginiana), Balsam Poplar (<i>Populus balsamifera</i>), Sweet Cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>), Fire Cherry (<i>P. pensylvanica</i>), Black Cherry (<i>P. serotina</i>), pears (<i>Pyrus</i>), White Oak (<i>Quercus alba</i>), Chestnut Oak (<i>Q. montana</i>), Northern Red Oak (<i>Q. rubra</i>), Black Oak (<i>Q. velutina</i>), willows (<i>Salix</i>), American Mountain Ash (<i>Sorbus americana</i>), Common Lilac (<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>), American Basswood (<i>Tilia americana</i>), American Elm (<i>Ulmus americana</i>), Slippery Elm (<i>U. rubra</i>) and viburnums (<i>Viburnum</i>). In North Carolina, larvae have been recorded feeding on Black Cherry, Post Oak (<i>Q. stellata</i>), and American Basswood.

OBSERVATION_METHODS: The adults are attracted to lights.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: GNR S4S5

STATE PROTECTION: Has no legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands.

COMMENTS: This is a common and widespread species that is apparently secure in the state.

March 2025

The Moths of North Carolina - Early Draft

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